Crop loss due to hailstorm and showers in M.P.

†2881. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the heavy losses caused to the crops by hailstorm and showers in March, 2006 in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) if so, the details of grant given to farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Central assistance in the wake of hailstorm/rains, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas in the State for assessment of damage, including damage to crops. This will now be considered by the High Level Committee (HLC), headed by the Agricultural Minister, for a decision on the quantum of assistance to the State Government.

Drought assistance to Himachal Pradesh

2882. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several regions of Himachal Pradesh, such as Una, Hamirpur, Kangra and Bilaspur districts have been in the grip of severe drought since last year;

(b) whether the State is being considered for any help; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Himachal Pradesh have neither reported drought in any part of the State nor sought any Central assistance for drought relief, during last year and so far this year.

Opening/closing of subsidiary companies by NDDB

†2883. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development (NDDB) has opened or closed a number of subsidiary companies during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.